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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ms. Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.27

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003, 58/215 of 23 December 2003, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 59/233 of 22 December 2004, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 60/196 of 22 December 2005, 61/198 of 20 December 2006, 61/200 of 20 December 2006, 62/192 of 19 December 2007, 63/216 of 19 December 2008, 63/217 of 19 December 2008 and 64/200 of 21 December 2009; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Reaffirming the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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Reaffirming also the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Recalling also the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[6]

Reaffirming the role of the Hyogo Framework for Action[4] in providing policy guidance on the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Taking note of the "Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction" launched in Manama in May 2009,[7]

Recognizing that 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as well as the midpoint of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[4]

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern also at the increasing challenges facing the disaster response and preparedness capacity of Member States and the United Nations system as a result of the combined impacts of current global challenges, including the global economic and financial crisis, climate change and the food crisis,

Recognizing the clear relationship between sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to continue to deploy efforts in all these areas,

Recognizing also the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to appropriate, advanced, environmentally sound, cost-effective and easy-to-use technologies so as to seek more comprehensive solutions to disaster risk reduction and to effectively and efficiently strengthen their capabilities to cope with disaster risks,

Recognizing further the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen local authorities and community capabilities to reduce vulnerability to disasters,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, the underlying risk factors, as identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] including socio-economic factors, that exacerbate the vulnerability of

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[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

[6] See resolution 65/1.

[7] Available from www.unisdr.org.

societies to natural hazards, to build and further strengthen the capacity at all levels to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters, while also recognizing the negative impact of disasters on economic growth and sustainable development, in particular in developing countries and disaster-prone countries,

Recognizing also the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction management, with a view to reducing vulnerability,

Taking into account the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

Taking into account also that geological and hydrometeorological hazards and vulnerabilities and resilience to their associated natural disasters and their reduction must be addressed in a coherent and effective manner,

Bearing in mind the importance of addressing disaster risks related to changing social, economic, environmental conditions and land use, and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and climate change, in sector development planning and programmes as well as in post-disaster situations,

Noting that disaster risk is an increasing problem in urban areas where risk, population and economic assets are concentrated,

Noting also that reaching the most vulnerable and poor communities remains a major challenge in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] and that while much progress has been made at the policy level globally, regionally and nationally, the benefits of this are yet to be felt locally,

Stressing that the impacts of natural disasters are severely hampering efforts in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizing the importance of reducing vulnerabilities to natural disasters,

Taking note with appreciation of the important role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] according to the mandate, in strengthening the Strategy system, enhancing the system-wide high-level leadership, and coordinating disaster risk reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 63/217 and its resolution 64/200;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] and stresses the need for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming, for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at the regional, national and local levels to build resilience to hazards, and for systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation

[8] A/64/280 and A/65/388.

of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes and long-term development plans, as a means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community, to increase efforts to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] and stresses the importance in this regard of the continued cooperation and coordination of stakeholders at all levels with respect to addressing effectively the impact of natural disasters;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites international financial institutions and regional and international organizations, to integrate the goals of, and take into full account, the Hyogo Framework for Action[4] in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms, and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design and implement, as appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

5. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

6. *Further recognizes* the importance of coordinating adaptation to climate change with relevant disaster risk reduction measures, invites Governments and relevant international organizations to integrate these considerations in a comprehensive manner into, inter alia, development plans and poverty eradication programmes and, in least developed countries, into the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, and invites the international community to support the ongoing efforts of developing countries in this regard;

7. *Welcomes* the national, regional and subregional initiatives undertaken by Member States, in particular by developing countries, in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities or regional mechanisms where they exist and to strengthen them and encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools, and requests United Nations regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States in this regard, in close coordination with implementing entities of the United Nations system;

8. *Encourages* the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the Strategy system managed by the World Bank, to continue to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;[4]

9. *Welcomes* the upcoming third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, which serves as an important forum for Member States and other stakeholders to assess progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences and learn from good practices;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective and empowering and engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, as well as in risk reduction strategies and programmes, and encourages the secretariat of the Strategy to continue to increase the promotion of gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women;

11. *Encourages* the international community to support active participation of developing countries in the Strategy system, the mid-term review process and the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to make every effort to accelerate its full integration and mainstreaming of risk reduction into all its programmes and activities to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action[4] as well as to the Millennium Development Goals;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction;

14. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral organizations, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy;

15. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction and the growing demands on the secretariat of the Strategy and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the Strategy; and, in this regard, requests that the Secretary-General consider how best to support implementation of the natural disaster reduction strategy taking into account the important role played by the secretariat of the Strategy, with a view to ensuring adequate resources for the operation of the secretariat of the Strategy;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of early warning systems as part of effective disaster risk reduction, at local, national and regional levels, in order to reduce economic and social damages, including the loss of human lives. In this regard, encourages Member States to integrate such systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and encourages donors and the international community to enhance the international cooperation for supporting such initiatives, as appropriate, through technical assistance, technology transfer by mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and training programmes;

17. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches;

18. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing and adapting long-term programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable

development and disaster risk reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

19. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through development cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, including least developed countries and in Africa, through the implementation of the Strategy,[4] and encourages the institutional arrangement for the Strategy to continue its work in this regard;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action[4] and the priorities for action that States, regional and international organizations and international financial institutions as well as other concerned actors, in their approach to disaster risk reduction, should take into consideration and implement, as appropriate, according to their own circumstances and capacities, bearing in mind the vital importance of promoting a culture of prevention in the area of natural disasters, including through the mobilization of adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, and of addressing disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness at the community level, and the adverse effects of natural disasters on efforts to implement national development plans and poverty reduction strategies with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Acknowledges* that disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience to all types of natural hazard, including geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, in developing countries, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[4] can promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and that reducing vulnerabilities to these hazards is therefore a high priority for developing countries;

22. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and the increasing challenges posed by the consequences of natural disasters, as well as the impact of climate change, which impede progress towards sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, especially small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, as well as other particularly vulnerable countries;

23. *Stresses* the need to strengthen mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national development strategies, and as a practice in the policies and programmes of the humanitarian and environmental sectors, planning ministries and financial institutions and other relevant bodies;

24. *Stresses* that, in order to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, risk assessments should be integrated into disaster risk reduction programmes at national and local levels;

25. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[9] and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[10] Ibid., vol. 2303, No. 30822.

Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

26. *Takes note with appreciation* of the launching of the Making Cities Resilient campaign 2010-2011 "My city is getting ready" to increase the resilience of cities and urban areas, by raising the awareness of citizens and local governments of risk reduction options and by mobilizing political commitment and support among local governments to include risk reduction aspects in urban development planning and critical infrastructure investments;

27. *Welcomes* the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on disaster risk reduction to be held in New York on 9 February 2011;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report, including his recommendations on the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] on the implementation of the present resolution, under the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".